CAS in Metropolitan Cities

83. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the metros where Conditional Access System has been put into force w.e.f. July 15, 2003;

(b) the amount that would be recovered from the subscribers for this system;

(c) the agency responsible for providing Set Top Boxes to the subscribers alongwith the cost thereof;

(d) by when Direct To Home Service would be launched and the sources of supply of the required equipments for the same alongwith the cost thereof; and

(e) the utility of CAS after launching the Direct To Home Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) After monitoring the preparedness of stakeholders to introduce addressability and after discussions with various stakeholders namely Broadcasters, Multi System Operators (MSOs), Cable Operators, Consumer Groups, etc., it has been decided to roll out the implementation of CAS, in a zonal phased manner, in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the entire Chennai Metropolitan area, w.e.f. 1.9.2003. Notification has been issued on 10th July, 2003 and is available in the Ministry's webside, "www.mib.nic.in". The intervening period will be utilized to step up preparedness for smooth roll out of CAS and to educate the subscribers and increase their awareness. Government has specified Rs. 72/- (Plus taxes) as the maximum price of the basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programmes and music. Free-to-air channels over and above this number, would also be made available to subscribers within the specified maximum amount. In addition, consumers will pay only for those pay channels

which they choose to watch. As such, the total substription amount would vary depending upon the number of pay channels chosen by each viewer and on the rate of local taxes of the State concerned.

(c) There is no agency designated by Government to provide the STB. Cable Operators, MSOs, equipment manufacturers etc. may provide Set Top Boxes to the subscribers.

(d) Four applications for providing DTH service have been received and are under process.

(e) DTH and cable networks are two different modes of delivery of content. CAS is a more cost-effective mode of delivery, while DTH provides premium service and is more effective in remote areas. Both the services can co-exist.

LTP and STP in Orissa

84. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LTP and STP already functioning in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have made any survey of the LTP and STP required to cover all the districts of the State; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to put LTP' in Jaipur Road, Panikoili and Chandikhol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) 95 TV transmitters (HPTs-7, LPTs-68, VLPTs-20) and 14 Radio transmitters (LPTs-9, HPTs-5) are presently functioning in the State of Orissa.

(b) 93.3% and 98.8% of population of Orissa is covered, terrestrially by TV and All India Radio service respectively. However, in the satellite mode the entire country is covered by Doordarshan signals. In the10th Five Year Plan Doordarshan proposes to cover the uncovered pockets through satellite transmission in Ku-band, whereas AIR has planned setting up of 5 KW FM Tr. at Deogarh and Parlakimidi to cover uncovered pockets in Malkangiri, Deogarh and Gajapati Districts.

(c) No, Sir.